

Charles Mann

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November 30, 2010

Fair Political Practices Commission
428 J Street suite 800
Sacramento, Ca. 95814
Attn: Task Force Chairman Robert Stern & Charles H. B.Bell, Jr.

Dear Robert Stern and Charles H. Bell, Jr.,

The last couple political campaigns, in my opinion, have been deteriorating in the deceptive practice that has been allowed to take place by incomplete or useless disclosure information.

I am writing to express my support for greater disclosure of who is paying for political ads. Legitimate mailers should have proper disclosure of information to voters identifying the source that paid for the ad so that the voter can decide whether the source is to be trusted or not. Today that is not the case. The source that is paying for the ad can look deceptively official and very misleading. To that end, it is my opinion, that the industry has created so much confusion that voters can't discern who is legitimate and who is not thereby running amok of the system.

I support requiring any paid political ads to list the dollar amounts paid next to the advertised ballot measure or candidate name and obligating the printing firm or the newspaper to print the name or names of the entity paying for the ad. This has to be taken one step further so as to properly identifying the name on the ad to the name on the check or credit card that actually paid for the ad since many times the source on the ad is different than the actual person/firm paying for the ad.

Paid ads should list the name of the committee that paid for the ad and the top contributors to the committee. Voters should have all the information necessary to make informed choices.

I urge the Task Force to end the deceptive titles used by many mailers to suggest a party or organization platform of endorsements. If they mention a name synonymous with a political party, it should read, "This is not authorized by the X Party."

In order to make sure the laws are enforced, these mailers should all be sent to the FPPC and be posted online before circulation by mail or newspaper is permitted.

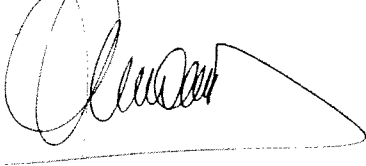
I strongly suggest that the exceptions made for any ad circulated by a newspaper be

limited to \$500 for a newspaper of circulation of 50,000 or less. Currently, under proposition 9 the exception is made for ads that cost less than \$1,000 with no regards to the size of circulation. If someone or some entity can pay for the circulation and distribution through the US postal system or newspaper distribution, then they have to be required to properly identify themselves as per the above mentioned requirements. For smaller town, the size of the circulation becomes much more important since ill-intentioned, but wealthy individuals or entities can hide behind the current exception and purposefully deceit the voters.

Free speech is a vital right in the United States, but there should be a clear distinction between true political speech, commercial mailers and deceptive practices.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact me at (949) 493 5900 x 204. I am a concerned citizen that respects everyone's freedom of speech.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Charles Mann', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Charles Mann